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PAKISTAN'S INHUMAN AIR ATTACKS

PUBLICATIONS DIVISION

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At 4 p.m. on Wednesday, September 22, 1965, President Ayub Khan of Pakistan made a broadcast in which he announced the acceptance, with conditions, of the U.N. Security Council's resolution calling on Pakistan and India to stop fighting.

Even as he was talking of cease-fire, three F-86 Sabre jets and two B-57s of the Pakistan Air Force headed for Amritsar and dropped several 1000-pound bombs on Chheharta, the busy industrial suburb of the city of the Golden Temple.

By night forty-five bodies had been extricated. At 3.30 a.m. on Thursday, when the cease-fire came into force, many more bodies were still under the debris. Seventy-seven houses and shops had been wholly destroyed and 150 more badly damaged.

That was Pakistan's way of signalling the return of peace to the sub-continent.

Indeed, cessation of hostilities was to have taken place at 12.30 p.m. on Wednesday and this could have been done if the A and B of Pakistan, Messrs Ayub Khan and Bhutto, had accepted the U.N. proposal promptly like India, and not adopted delay-

ing tactics. Mr Bhutto summoned a needless meeting of the Security Council to talk bravely of Pakistan's readiness to fight for a thousand years and then to announce the acceptance of the U.N. resolution from that day. The Council put back the moment of cease-fire by a few hours only to enable the two governments and their defence headquarters to issue instructions to their field commanders.

Pakistan utilised the extension to mount a diabolical offensive on the civilian population of Amritsar, the city whose heroism had foiled the designs of Pakistan.

Indeed, in the early hours of Wednesday, the day originally set for cease-fire, Pakistan carried out a raid on Jodhpur and bombed the jail hospital of the place, causing the death of 32 people. Three days prior to that, Pakistani aircraft had most perfidiously intruded into Indian air space over the State of Gujarat and shot down a civilian aircraft, killing Mr. Balvantray Mehta, the Chief Minister of Gujarat, his wife and seven others.

These three are only some of the incidents that show the shameless repudiation by Pakistan of all decencies of behaviour and the conventions of warfare.

Whether irregulars or regulars, on land and in air, Pakistan's armed personnel have acted in a brutal way typical of the outlook of the Government of Pakistan. They have indulged in destruction of houses and holy places, hospitals and schools.

Muslim mosques, Christian churches, Sikh gurdwaras, all have been attacked by Pakistan in an equal disregard of religion. Places of healing, like hospitals and Red Cross centres, which are spared by all gallant fighters, have been chosen by Pakistan for special attention.

And Pakistan has not desisted from that most heinous of war atrocities, the use of napalm bombs. Pakistan employed them not only against military personnel—even that is universally disapproved—but against civilian villages as well.

Pakistan made deliberate use of several napalm bombs on villages in the Samba area of Jammu in the Jammu and Kashmir State on September 15. Napalm bombs were also dropped on civilian vehicles.

The markings on the shells gave the weight as 750 lbs and the capacity as 110 gallons of incendiary materials.

Pakistan later admitted the use of not only these but other napalm bombs. In a report from Rawalpindi, the British news agency, Reuter, said on September 21 :

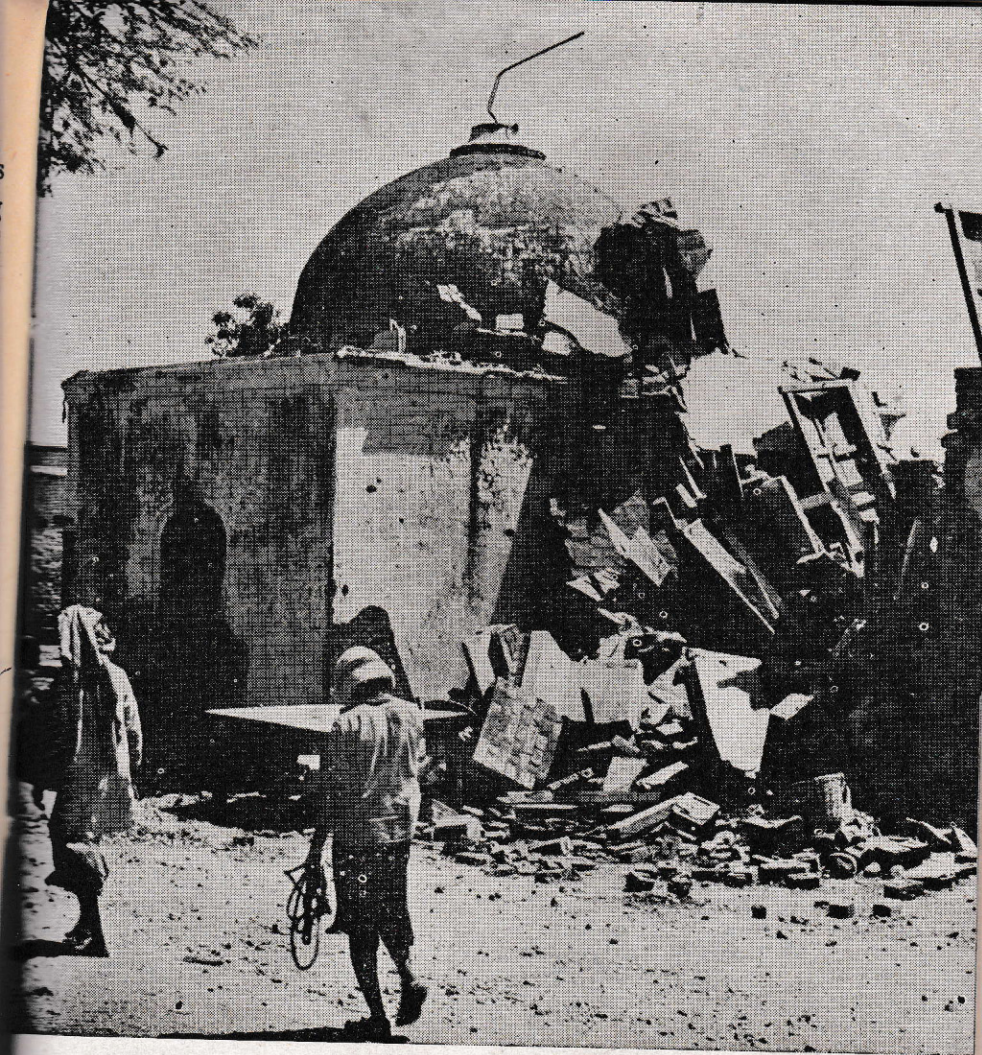
“A Pakistan Air Force spokesman told questioners here today that P.A.F. bombers had used napalm in attacks on Indian positions in various sectors during the past fortnight.

“This is the first official public confirmation that napalm has been used by the Pakistan Air Force.”

A month after sending men into Kashmir across the old cease-fire line and five days after launching the massive attack on India across the international boundary, President Ayub Khan declared his country was at war with India. But India promptly made it clear to the world that India was not at war with either the people of Pakistan or the state of Pakistan. The President, the Prime Minister and the Defence Minister of India declared unambiguously that India was fighting only to protect its own integrity and did not desire any territory of Pakistan, let alone its annihilation. Of the people of Pakistan, Prime Minister Shastri said : "We wish them well, we want them to prosper and we want to live in peace and friendship with them." India's action had a limited aim—to paralyse Pakistan's armour and aggressive potential.

In keeping with this definite and restricted objective, the Indian Army and Indian Air Force attacked only the military installations and armour of Pakistan. But Pakistan, in its bid to wage a total war, indulged in most indiscriminate attacks on civilian areas and made no distinction between combatant and non-combatant. The violence of these attacks on civilian life increased as Indian forces dealt a crippling blow to both the much-vaunted strength and the boastfulness of Pakistan.

Nothing illustrates Pakistan's boastfulness better than the "order of the day" of General Mohammed



Two-hundred-year old mosque at Jaurian (Jammu) which was battered by Pakistani air attack on September 2



St. Paul's Cathedral at Ambala after it was razed to the ground by Pakistani air attack on September 20



A view of the jail hospital at Jodhpur which was attacked by Pakistani planes with 1000-lb bombs on September 22

Fellow-prisoners say the last prayers for one of the victims of the raid





Remains of an Ambala hospital after indiscriminate bombing by Pakistani planes



Soon after Pakistan's President announced his country's acceptance of cease-fire, Pakistani planes attacked a densely populated suburb of Amritsar. Fifty-four people were killed.



Victim of Pakistani bombing in a village in Jammu area



*A village in Jammu sector after Pakistani air raid with
napalm bombs*

*Aftermath of an attack by Pakistani planes on a civilian area
in Amritsar*





*A crater formed by a high-explosive bomb used by
Pakistani planes*

Musa, in which he called on his troops to "bite deeper and deeper until (the enemy) is destroyed." This hysterical and blood-thirsty outburst is matched only by the idle boast that had been made by President Ayub Khan that the Pakistani Army would take a stroll to Delhi. As it became evident to Pakistan that such strollers would be neatly pushed out by India, it tried to terrorise the civilian population. The objective evidently was to make a dent in the morale of the people.

In this misguided effort to shake Indian morale, the Pakistani Air Force made civilian centres their special target of attack. In the two States of Punjab and Jammu-and-Kashmir, 316 people were killed and 401 injured owing to Pakistani bombing, and some 80,000 people were rendered homeless. There was extensive damage to civilian life and property in Rajasthan also.

No less deplorable than this loss was the destruction of places of worship. Pakistan's bombs destroyed many holy shrines belonging to various faiths. Pakistan's felony was apparent when a country claiming to wage a holy war on behalf of the Muslims of Kashmir chose a mosque of Jammu as almost its first non-military objective.

The 200-year-old mosque at Jaurian in the State of Jammu and Kashmir was destroyed on September 2. The rain of bombs instantaneously killed forty-five persons including some who were offering

prayers in the mosque. Another place holy for Muslims that Pakistan has destroyed is the mausoleum of the renowned Muslim Saint, Pir Barakullah Sahib, in the Dera Baba Nanak sector in the Punjab. It was bombed on September 17 and reduced to ashes. The mausoleum used to draw thousands of Muslim pilgrims from India and Pakistan every year.

Among the very first targets of the Pakistani bombers was Gurdwara Machhiwara, near Ludhiana. This Sikh shrine was hit by rockets on the night of September 6. Three days later, another gurdwara was badly damaged when Pakistan aeroplanes made a rocket-attack on Borhe ke Kothay village in Ranbir-singhpura (Jammu and Kashmir).

The historic St. Paul's Cathedral in Ambala, the oldest and one of the most beautiful of Christian places of worship in North India, was the target of two night aerial attacks, on September 18 and on September 20. The first attack damaged the church but the second reduced it to rubble. It must be noted that the bombing was carried out in bright moonlight in which a low-flying aircraft could not make a mistake about the target. The Bishop of the Diocese of Amritsar, the Rt. Rev. W. C. Anand said, "I am completely heart-broken at this wanton destruction of the house of God. The loss is irreparable." The whole nation was aghast at this act of vandalism. Prime Minister Shastri ex-

pressed his sense of shock, and a fund is to be raised to rebuild the cathedral.

Hospitals, Red Cross centres, schools and passenger trains have been among the other targets of Pakistani bombing.

A hospital in Poonch (Kashmir) was shelled on August 19. Four bombs were dropped on an army hospital in Ambala in the early hours of September 18. Eight wards of the hospital were completely destroyed. The main ward was directly hit by a 1000-lb. bomb. After hitting the concrete structure, the bomb created a 10-foot deep and 20-foot wide crater in the hospital compound.

Four days later came the bombing of the Jodhpur jail hospital in Rajasthan. Three bombs directly hit the hospital which was completely destroyed.

Four ambulance vehicles with prominent Red Cross markings were attacked by Pakistani aeroplanes at Ferozepur on September 8.

Crowded passenger trains and transport vehicles plying on highways were repeatedly bombed and strafed by Pakistan planes. A stationary passenger train at Gadra Road railway station in Rajasthan was bombed on September 9 resulting in the death of ten passengers.

Three days later, bombs were dropped on a passenger train between Ludhiana and Ferozepur. On the same day, Pakistani jets attacked civilian

vehicles on the Jammu-Pathankot road causing a number of casualties. A train was attacked at Gurdaspur railway station on September 13. A girls' school was the main target in a bombing raid on September 11 in a village near Hoshiarpur.

The bombing by the Pakistan Air Force of civilian areas has left ugly scars on many villages and cities in India. Bombs weighing up to 1,000 lbs. were dropped deliberately on areas that were of no military significance.

The cities that were specially chosen by the Pakistan Air Force for its attention were Amritsar, Ambala, Ferozepur, Ludhiana, Pathankot, Dharamsala, Batala, Adampur, Halwara and Sangrur, in the Punjab; Jodhpur, Barmer and Gadra Road in Rajasthan; Srinagar, Jammu and Jaurian in the State of Jammu and Kashmir, and Jamnagar in Gujarat. As many as 52 air raids were made over the Rajasthan cities. As for Amritsar, the sacred city of the Sikhs, for whom the Pakistani leaders are shedding crocodile tears, there was hardly a day during the period of fighting when the city was not raided. On September 15 alone there were ten visits by the Pakistan Air Force. There were air raids also on the towns of Bagdogra, Hasimara and Imphal in the north-east.

The fury of Pakistan's attacks on civilians seemed to increase with their military reverses and the collapse of their grand design to annex the State of

Jammu and Kashmir by force. But the rain of terror from the air only helped further to steel India's will to fight the aggressor. With each bombing, the morale rose, and with each civilian killed, a new martyr arose to beckon the people to fight Pakistan.

Thus did Pakistan make its fourth grave miscalculation in its autumn of errors. The first was to think that the people of Kashmir would rise in support of the irregulars from Pakistan. The second was to think that the Indian leaders would stand any amount of bluff and bullying from Pakistan. And the third was to imagine that Pakistan was superior in ground and air power.

Now Pakistan knows, and India knows and the world knows.



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